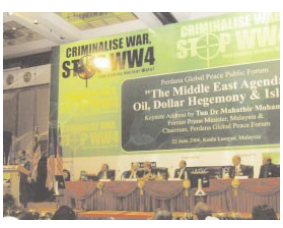
AFP American Free Press
Volume VI #31 July 31, 2006 americanfreepress.net



The opening session of the Perdana Conference

Warhawks Will Be Called to Account

Dr. Mahathir Mohamad urges international declaration *against* war

By Michael Collins Piper

In his keynote address to the Perdana Global Peace Forum, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad noted that most people view war as "something that happens somewhere else to other people," when, in fact, "war is about killing people — a test of the ability of nations to kill." He pointed out that, today, nations are looking for "new ways of killing," demonstrating that "We are as brutal as ever. We have not really become civilized."

However, he said, "War is not a solution to any conflict between nations. War is a crime. We need to work in the longterm for war to be seen as a crime. People who wage war should be treated as criminals."

Although Dr. Mahathir believes that it is vital for a nation to have a national defense system, having arms doesn't mean that a nation is planning for war. He insists that nations should settle their differences by means other than war.

"In war," he said, "the winner is 'right.' The loser — even if he is defending his country — is wrong, and he may be hanged."

Dr. Francis Boyle

Mahathir Mohamad

Mukhris Mahathir

And in light of the current U.S. claim that it conducted war against Iraq to bring democracy to that country, Dr. Mahathir asked, "What is this 'democracy' that the neo-conservatives are promoting?" pointing out that even the new leaders of Iraq are unable to venture out of their protected zones. "Are the people of Iraq free today?" he asked. "It is undemocratic to kill people to make them accept democracy," he said. And now the United States is considering going to war against Iran, a nation that has a democratically elected president.

Of the current United States domination of the United Nations Security Council, Dr. Mahathir said that this is "a very undemocratic way of sponsoring democracy."

Dr. Mahathir asserted that it is time that voters in all countries insist that candidates for high office give a pledge that they are against war.

World War IV is already here, said Dr. Mahathir, pointing out that it was not he who coined the term. Instead, it was such leading neo-conservative voices as Norman Podhoretz, the longtime editor of the American Jewish Committee's ***Commentary*** magazine and Dr. Earl Filford of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, who declared that World War IV is upon us, echoed by Efraim Halevy, the former chief of Israel's Mossad, and others.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued a Quadrennial Defense Review Report, dated March 6, 2006, saying that the war will be a "long war" that will last for "years to come." Even now, 350,000 American forces are deployed in 130 countries. Rumsfeld was echoed by President George Bush who declared that the United States was "in the early years of a long struggle" against what he referred to as "a new totalitarian ideology."

The origins of this war, said Dr. Mahathir, can be found in a policy paper drafted by neo-conservative strategist Paul Wolfowitz who, in 1992, called for the projection of U.S. military power with Islam as its target. And now Iran is the latest target. In the same vein as the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998, the U.S. Congress has now passed the Iran Freedom Support Act. And the aircraft carrier USS ***Ronald Reagan*** warship is now positioning itself for conflict. And it's a very strong possibility that nuclear weapons will be used.

On-line video presentations of the complete speeches by Dr. Mahathir and the others can be found at the Internet website of the Perdana Global Peace Organization at: perdana4peace.org

Dr. Mahathir said frankly: "The war criminal Bush has declared that all options are on the table," including nuclear weapons. And yet, "Iran's efforts count for nothing," including the fact that Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The warlike rhetoric and threats coming from President Bush, said the former Malaysian prime minister, "are strong words from the president of the most powerful nation in the world. He has already shown us what he is capable of in the war against Iraq. We must put a stop to this plans and stop the killings."

Expressing his sympathy for the American soldiers who must fight the wars being waged by the Bush regime, Dr. Mahathir pointed out that American lives will also be endangered endangered in the war against Iran: "It is the ordinary man who will pay for the price of this folly, but Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair are protected and safe from harm," noted Dr. Mahathir. However, he said, "Peace loving peoples must mete out justice. The international community must summon the political will to bring these war criminals to justice."

Dr. Mahathir directly confronted Bush and Blair: "They should not be addressed by any honorific. They should not be called President Bush and Prime Minister Blair. Instead, we should refer to them as 'War Criminal Bush' and 'War Criminal Blair.' These are the war criminals. Have a good look at them." Of Bush, Dr. Mahathir said: "This is a man who told lies. The whole nation knows he told lies." And today the United States is surviving on a war economy. It is a bankrupt country and its currency has no backing. But billions of dollars are being spent on weapons for wars that need not be fought.

While the mass media in the United States proclaims former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as a man of peace, contrast that, said Dr. Mahathir, with the way the media has treated Iranian President Ahmadinejad and Saddam Hussein.

Ultimately, Dr. Mahathir asked: "Will Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and the other war criminals be taken before an international tribunal" to be held responsible for the war crimes that are even now being committed in Iraq? The November 2005 massacre at Haditha — the murder of innocent people — has only recently been exposed. But, said Dr. Mahathir, it was "not a random event." And referring to the so-called "preemptive" war that the United States waged against Saddam Hussein in Iraq (and which is being pondered against Iran), Dr. Mahathir commented, only partially in jest: "Maybe if I were still in office, they might have had a preemptive war against me."

In reference to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and the U.S. role therein, he said that "No way can you have America as an honest broker — a dishonest broker, maybe." He compared the role of the United States in the world today as akin to a situation "when the police chief is breaking the law."

In the end, Dr. Mahathir urged all good people who oppose war and imperialism to come together and, he said, "God willing — peace will prevail."

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

(Issue #31, July 31, 2006, AMERICAN FREE PRESS)